

MAY 23 1973

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT

May 23, 1973

Dr. Joshua Lederburg, Chairman
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Lederburg:

A group of faculty and graduate students in the social sciences here at the University of Chicago are studying the social implications of the prolongation of life, and attempting to understand the social adjustments that will be necessary over the next three or four decades if our society is to accommodate larger numbers of older people.

In this connection, we are trying to assess the likelihood that many more persons will live to advanced old age, or that there will be an extension of the life-span itself.

In this ^{same} connection, are you involved in a task group or a research activity that is attempting to forecast the possible developments in drugs (or another biological remedy) that will be life-extending or age-retarding? If so, would you be willing to communicate those assessments to us? For instance, is it likely in your opinion, that any such new treatment, whether developed in your own laboratories or elsewhere, is likely to appear within the next two decades, that will add length to life and not merely add to the individual's sense of well-being?

I would appreciate any comments that you might have on this set of questions, and would be particularly grateful for a prompt response. If you would like to telephone me, rather than write a letter, please telephone me collect and discuss your views with me. (Telephone: 312-753-3861). We are trying at this moment to gather opinions from a few highly qualified biologists, in order to plan certain next steps in our research program.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Cordially yours,

Bernice Neugarten
Bernice Neugarten
Professor and Chairman

BN/f

NEUGARTEN, Bernice

called 8/28 "out of town
until next week"
me p 206; 3/68 hamp.